

Application No.: 10/058,681

Docket No.: JCLA7301

REMARKS**Present Status of the Application**

The claims 1-15 are still pending of which the claim 1 has been amended and the claim 3 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in order to more explicitly describe the claimed invention. It is believed that no new matter is introduced by amendments made to the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims 1-2 and 4-15 is respectfully requested.

Response to "Allowable Subject Matter"

9. Claims 3, 7, 10, 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response thereto, applicant merges the claim 3 into the claim 1 so as to rewrite the claim 3 to be the amended claim 1. It is believed that the amended claim 1 includes all limitations of the claim 3 and its base claim 1.

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Discussion for rejection to claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

7. Claims 2, 4, 8, 12 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Bray in view of Lee further in view of Berry (U.S. Pat. No. 6,366,174)

In response thereto, as the claims 2, 4, 8, 12 14 directly or indirectly depend on the amended claim 1, these dependent claims should be patentable as a matter of law for the reason that they contain all limitations of their patentable base claim 1.

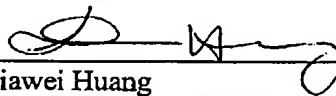
CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1-2 and 4-15 of the present application patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date: 4/4/2006

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Respectfully submitted,
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